



**VMA-223 Command Officer, LtCol Hutchins**  
**Family Readiness Policy**



To the Marines and Families of VMA-223,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the Commanding Officer of Marine Attack Squadron 223 (VMA-223). First off, I am honored to have been given the chance to lead the finest men and women America has to offer. I can think of no other place to serve than VMA-223 with the Marines and families that make up our squadron.

My wife Laura and I, to include our two sons, Wyatt and Henry, are excited to get to know each of you over the next 18 months and make VMA-223 an enjoyable tour for all involved. My intent is to keep the family members informed on a regular basis of what the squadron is doing and also keep the immediate families of the unit involved with family oriented VMA-223 functions.

The Commandant of the Marine Corps has provided us with a dedicated civilian Family Readiness Officer (FRO). Ashleigh Nix has been selected by me to be our FRO to build upon the success of our program here and take it to new heights. She is approachable, engaging, and dynamic, and she has over 3 1/2 years' experience as a successful FRO. She has a very family oriented mindset that I hope you will find supportive—but she and I can't do it alone; we need input from you and a few volunteers to create what I feel will become the best Family Readiness Program in the Marine Corps.

In closing, I consider it a privilege to command your husbands and wives, sons and daughters, mothers and fathers. Please know that I will take care of our Marines and their families. Please remain engaged and do your part to make the VMA-223 family a happy one!

Semper Fidelis,

Benjamin K. Hutchins

Lieutenant Colonel, United States Marine Corps